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Message Text

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44
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 NEA-14 SAM-01 ACDA-19 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /151 W
---------- 040859
R 301600Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4643
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION NATO
USUN NEW YORK 1173
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, GR
SUBJECT: ALLEGATION OF PRESS CENSORSHIP

REF: ATHENS 5168

GENEVA FOR BUFFUM

1. FURTHER DETAILS NOW AVAILABLE ON ACTIONS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT TO PERSUADE APOYEVMATINI NOT TO PRINT STORY RELATING TO TENDER OF RESIGNATION BY PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS (SEE REFTEL). IT NOW APPEARS THAT ALL ATHENS NEWSPAPERS HAD BEEN ADVISED NOT TO PRINT STORY BUT WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT APOYEVMATINI INTENDED TO SO SO, REPRESENTATIVES OF POLICE VISITED EDITORS AND ORDERED THEM NOT TO PROCEED WITH PUBLICATION. APOYEVMATINI EDITORS ALSO RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM UNDER SECRETARY TO PM LAMBRIAS. DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS
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ONE RUN OF PAPERS HAD ALREADY BEEN DISTRIBUTED WITH

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OFFENDING STORY BUT SUBSEQUENT EDITIONS DELETED IT.
APPARENTLY SIMILAR SITUATION OCCURRED WITH REGARD TO
AFTERNOON PAPER TA NEA.

2. SUBSEQUENTLY, UNDER SECRETARY LAMBRIAS SUGGESTED
HIS ACTION WAS WARRANTED SINCE NATION STILL UNDER
MARTIAL LAW AND IN MIDST OF SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL CRISIS.
ALSO SINCE PAPERS HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN REQUESTED NOT TO
PRINT STORY, SUBSEQUENT ACTION BY APOYEVMATINI AND
TA NEA COULD BE CONSIDERED "BREACH OF AGREEMENT".

3. IN COURSE OF MEETING WITH POLITICAL REPORTERS
EVENING JULY 29, COPY OF PM'S STATEMENT (REPORTED
ATHENS-5181) DISTRIBUTED. IN THIS CONNECTION, ATHENS NEWS
AGENCY DAILY BULLETIN COMMENTED THAT PM MADE STATEMENT IN
VIEW OF FACT THAT BOTH "GREEK AND INTERNATIONAL PRESS"
WERE PUBLISHING INACCURATE AND CONTRADICTORY VERSIONS
OF MANNER IN WHICH RECENT POLITICAL CHANGES TOOK PLACE.
IN HIS STATEMENT, PM URGED ALL GREEKS "AND IN
PARTICULAR THE PRESS" TO CONSCIENTIOUSLY REALIZE GRAVITY
CURRENT SITUATION AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO "CREATION OF A
CLIMATE FACILITATING FACING OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUE AND
ACCELERATE PROCEDURE LEADING TO FULL NORMALITY".
TASCA

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